

# Wendy's Last Supper

Well, it was really a lunch, not a supper, but the tables were arranged in a modified "Last Supper" style and it was our last time to have a meal together. Although that was a sad thought, it was a great send-off for us and for our departing minister. There were lots of lovingly sharing moments as the congregation ruminated over our associations with Reverend Wendy McNiven and the years she has served us. We wish her well as she moves to Courtenay, takes on the role of grandmother instead of pastor, and handles whatever other challenges enter her life away from Kelowna and Kamloops. We will miss you, Wendy!

UUFK also will take on new roles as we move forward in our role as a congregation without a called minister. With the background Wendy has helped us build, I'm sure we will be up to the challenge.



A couple of pictures of our farewell celebration that was held after the Sunday service on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The catered lunch and the fond sharing of memories by most of the attendees made it a very special time.

UUFK NEWS  
Jan./Feb.2014



Seeking Spirituality  
Practising Community



With Freedom of  
Religious Thought

# Kuuf Links

# Christmas Amalgamated

## Team UU Lends Helping Hands

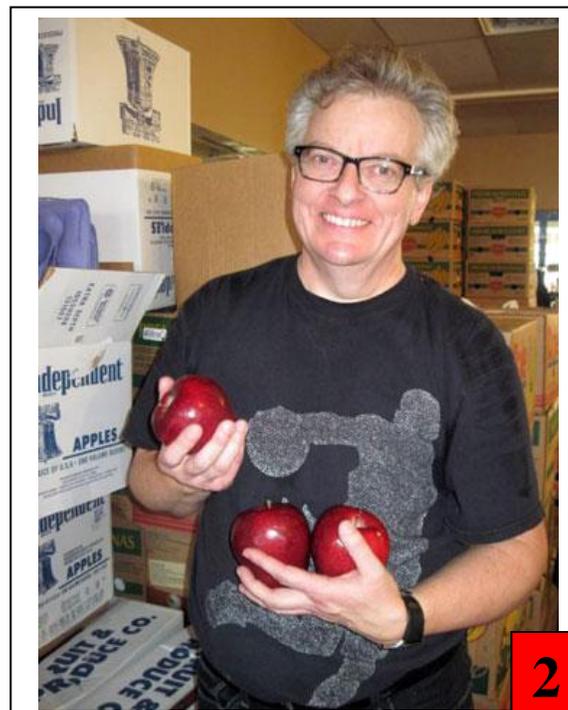
This year was our fourteenth year to volunteer with Christmas Amalgamated. This organization provides a valuable service to the community, providing families and individuals in need with Christmas food hampers and gifts. Team UU packed candies, sorted clothes, and packed the fresh food portions for the Christmas hampers. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers – Gisela, Karl, Colene, Penny, Corene and her daughter, Madisun, Pat, Gerda, and Anne!



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# Upcoming Services

## January 2014

(January theme - "New Perspectives")

**January 5** - "New Perspectives" A young man comes to Canada from Denmark for one year and shares what this experience has taught him; Can we think outside the box and have a new liturgy for a Unitarian Christmas and Easter; Is how Mark Twain viewed religion and aging at the turn of the century so very different from our perspective today?

**January 12** – Contemplative Meditation with Janet K. and Jennifer B.

**January 19** - "Celebrations, Ceremonies & Rituals" - Colene. Throughout our lives these events occur. Let's look at them and see why they are important and universally celebrated. What is their place in our everyday lives? *Soup lunch to follow service. SEA collecting warm winter clothing!*

**January 26** – Part II of the "Forgiveness" service started on November 24, 2013 – led by Pat McN.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** - Coffee & refreshments will only be provided on January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your own to Meditation and Chalice Circle.

**SET-UP team for January:** Eagles: Led by Pat.McN. – Tuula, Gerri, Scott, Eleanor H. & Jennifer.

## February 2014

(February theme - "Living from the Heart Centre")

**February 2** – "Silent Practice" – Laura Madsen. The inner action of Surrender is dependant upon our willingness to "not know." The regular practice of this simple, but challenging, gesture provides the space for a profound shift in our awareness. Within this new awareness, the deep Silence of the Heart reveals itself. Here, we discover a graceful intelligence that has never been separate from who we are. Laura completed her Theology Masters from

## February 2014

(February theme - "Living from the Heart Centre")

**February 2 cont.** – the Vancouver School of Theology in May 2011. She has since facilitated Silence Practice groups employing the 5 practice themes developed for her Research thesis. She lives in Vancouver with her husband and is presently writing a book on this transformational practice.

**February 9** - Contemplative Meditation, with Janet K. & Jennifer B.

**February 16** – "Love be the Spirit" - Rev. Linda Weaver Horton. Different faiths and cultures through the ages have lifted up different ideas about the meaning and place of love in our lives. What does it mean to "love" our neighbours? Is a love of friends less important than romantic love? How about the wit who claimed, "I love humanity; it's people I cannot stand"? Is love simply a feeling? Is it an art? Is it commitment to an awesome amount of hard work? A surprising survey of "religious values" several decades ago found Unitarian Universalists giving "Love" a higher priority than people of most other faiths. Why might that be? *Soup lunch to follow service.* +See the proposed Saturday Workshop, *Shift and Congregational Vitality Study*, February 15<sup>th</sup> on page 4 for Rev. Linda's bio and workshop information.+

**February 23** – Chalice Service led by Heather S.

**December 15, 2013** – Rev. Wendy McNiven. *I am sending a big, heartfelt thank-you to everyone in the congregation, and particularly the leaders and organizers. You are a beautiful group of people.*

*Today's farewell lunch was a very affirming and "sweet" experience for me. I am grateful for my time as minister of this lovely UU Fellowship of Kamloops. You will remain in my heart, until our paths cross again.*

*Farewell my friends.*

Rev. Wendy

## What's Happening in January & February

### Soup List for January and February

#### January 19th, 2014 - Service by Colene P.:

Vegetarian : Kay T.

Other : Wendy W. and Joan G.

Buns /Margarine : Jill M.

#### February 16th , 2014 - Service by Rev. Linda Weaver Horton:

Vegetarian : Gisela

Other : Gerda and Jill M.

Buns/Margarine : Heather G.

## UUFK Women's Lunch

January 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday at noon, place Anne N's.  
Cost \$10. which will be donated to the UUFK.

February 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday at 11:45 a.m. at Frankly  
Coffee Cafe, 437 Landsdowne Ave.

March 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday at 11:45 a.m. at the Stock  
Pot Cafe, #7--970 Laval Cres., recommended  
by Heather S.

## UUFK Men's Lunch

January 8, Red Robin's B101 - 1180  
Columbia Street West.

## Fellowship Celebration Dinner

Put February 22 on your calendar, folks – the date has been set for our fourth annual Fellowship Celebration Dinner. Saturday night, February 22 is the day. Be sure to set time aside to attend this fun-filled evening with friends! Entertainment plans are underway and we will keep you posted.

## Proposed Workshop, Feb. 15

You are invited to participate in a research project exploring the impact of current shifts in generational configuration on congregational vitality. Researcher Rev. Dr. Linda Weaver Horton has Master's degrees in Anthropology and Sociology and research experience in the social sciences. She served on the UUA Commission on Appraisal and was a primary author of their report "Engaging our Theological Diversity" in 2005. Given the accelerated rate of change in our world, our vitality as a religious movement depends more than ever upon becoming allies across generations in order to live out our mission in the world. What is learned from this study could help our denomination, as well as participating congregations, to better understand this dynamic and enhance congregational vitality. You are invited to complete a questionnaire found on SurveyMonkey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUgenerationsPaper>. Copies of the questionnaire are also available. For information contact Rev. Linda Weaver Horton at: [revlwhorton@yahoo.ca](mailto:revlwhorton@yahoo.ca).

Time and location of the workshop will be announced near the end of January.

## UUFK Book Club

January 16: *The Third Riel Conspiracy* hosted by Mona.

February 20: hosted by Suzanne

## Winter Warm-up Event

At the January 19 service, we will collect warm winter clothing items for people in need. Please bring gently used items such as warm socks, gloves, mittens, toques, scarves, or jackets and place them in the bins provided at the front of the hall. Our SEA Committee will deliver them to a local shelter.

## UUFK Library

### UUFK LIBRARY

Did you know that our Unitarian library is now located in the basement at Valleyview Hall, so you can easily borrow books? The catalogue can be found on our website.

Ask one of the “old-timers” to show you where it is. Please sign out items in the book on top shelf.

### NEW BOOKS

There are 2 copies of Tom Owen-Towle’s book “Wrestling with God” available, Pat McN has them so please contact her to borrow. These are pre-reading for the workshop to be offered on March 15, led by Rev Meg Roberts. This is an easy read, a light-hearted exploration for atheists, agnostics and believers alike. (See Heather S.’s remarks about this book in the Recommended Book column to the right!)

## Recommended Book

### *WRESTLING WITH GOD – A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GUIDE FOR SKEPTICS AND BELIEVERS*

Dedicated to all religious pilgrims who pitch tent in the creases between belief and skepticism, uncertainty and devotion.... who willingly carry on a persistent lover’s quarrel with God.

Recall the Latin phrase that epitomized the spirit of our 16<sup>th</sup>-century Unitarian forebears: *semper reformada*, which means “always evolving”. Membership in a responsibly free faith requires us to keep dancing, keep growing our soul, keep current and fluid our connections with divinity. Our tradition calls us to maintain doggedness instead of manufacturing dogmas.

Holding to the critical gifts of our atheism, agnosticism and affirmatism we love God as wholeheartedly as proves reasonable. Unless we succumb to premature hardening of our spiritual arteries, we will argue with heaven all the way home. But the good news intrinsic to our life-affirming religion is that, as Thomas Carlyle remarked: ‘Life is one long quarrel with God, but we make up in the end’.

Heather S.

## How to Use Facebook Lesson



Corene, Gisela and Rev. Wendy McNiven presented a *How to Use Facebook* lesson at Gisela’s house on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The picture on the left, shows the participants busy at their learning tasks.

Thanks to the presenters for their help!

At the Extraordinary General Meeting on December 1, Fellowship members approved two resolutions:

**\* Mineral Tenure Act resolution**

*Be it resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kamloops support the Union of BC Municipalities' Resolution B80, "Modernize the Mineral Tenure Act", by writing letters to our MLAs, Todd Stone, Terry Lake, and Jackie Tegart, and to Hon. Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development, and Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines, asking them to support the resolution and send it to the legislature for amendment in the nearest possible future.*

**\*ClimateFast resolution**

*Whereas climate science informs us that we must keep our global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius, and consider the safe level of CO2 to be not more than 350 parts per million, and yet the current government of Canada has deliberately diminished our reduction target and withdrawn altogether from the Kyoto Accord,*

*and*

*Whereas the "ClimateFast" movement ([www.climatefast.ca](http://www.climatefast.ca)) and its three goals have been endorsed by the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice,*

- \*End fossil fuel subsidies.*
- \*Put a price on carbon.*
- \*Support the development of a renewable energy plan for Canada,*

*Be it resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kamloops endorse the "ClimateFast" movement, and direct the SEA committee to encourage action in support of these goals.*

Some of you may not be aware of the many wonderful contributions Unitarians have made to celebrating (and singing!) Christmas. Here is a partial list:

**1798** - British Unitarian poet Samuel Coleridge brought the German tradition of Christmas gift giving to England and America by writing about it in "The Christian Register" the official Unitarian magazine.

**1823** - Unitarian professor Clement Moore writes the children's classic "A visit from St Nicholas" now known as "T'was the Night Before Christmas" in New York City.

**1825** - British Unitarian John Bowering wrote the carol "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night".  
**1832** - The German-born Unitarian Minister Rev. Charles Follen brought the tradition of setting up the Christmas Tree to America, in Lexington, Massachusetts.

**1843** - British Unitarian Charles Dickens publishes the holiday classic "A Christmas Carol" in London.

**1857** - Unitarian musician James Pierpont publishes the Christmas favorite "Jingle Bells" in Boston, Massachusetts.

**1863** -- Unitarian minister Rev. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day".

**1884** -- Unitarian James Russell Lowell wrote the carol, "What Means this Glory Round Our Feet"

The composer of the Jingle Bells song, James Lord Pierpont, was the son of the Rev. John Pierpont (the famous 19th Century New England Unitarian minister, who was an ardent abolitionist, progressive reformer, politician and poet), and the brother of the Rev. John Pierpont, Jr. (who, following in his father's footsteps was the ardent anti-slavery minister of the Unitarian Church in Savannah, Georgia, the oldest Unitarian church in the south). But James -- the talented-but-erratic musician brother who wrote "Jingle Bells" -- was (as one historian bluntly puts it) "The Black Sheep" of the famous Unitarian Pierpont

## UNITARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHRISTMAS. continued

Clan. Although it is not clear whether the song was written in Medford Massachusetts or Savannah Georgia (two places where Pierpont lived) and that is a story in itself, because both towns vociferously claim to be the birthplace of the song -- historians believe the song was first performed at a Thanksgiving Sunday School concert at the Unitarian Church in Savannah, where James was the organist and music director in the church his brother John served. It was first published in Boston in 1857 under the name of "One Horse Open Sleigh," and was re-issued (two years later) as "Jingle Bells," but it was originally not sold as a Christmas song, or even a thanksgiving song, but rather as a "sleighting" song which was a popular winter pastime in New England during the 19th Century. One interesting thing about the song "Jingle Bells" is that it was not a very popular song at first; it sold few copies, and it did not become a beloved "Christmas standard," for several decades! In any case, based on what we know of him, James, the composer of "Jingle Bells," must have been a great embarrassment and disappointment to his staunchly Unitarian and abolitionist family. In the 1840's, he and his first wife Millicent settled in Medford, Massachusetts (where his famous father was minister of the town's First Parish Unitarian church) and began raising their three children. But in 1849, James - who one historian calls "a roving rebel" abruptly abandoned his wife and children in Medford (they ended up living with Pierpont's parents) and left Massachusetts to become a prospector in San Francisco during the California Gold Rush. In 1851, after his speculative business venture failed, he returned to Medford. But two years later, he moved (once again, abandoning his wife and children) to Savannah, where he assumed the organist and choir director position at his brother's Unitarian Church in Savannah. After his first wife Millicent (back in Massachusetts) died of tuberculosis in 1856, James married Eliza Purse, daughter of the mayor of Savannah, and had 5 more children!

But wait, the story gets even more complex! When the Civil war broke out, the Unitarian Church in Savannah (which was an island of liberalism in the Deep South) was forced to close because of its "unpopular abolitionist leanings" and James' abolitionist minister brother John Jr. returned to Massachusetts where he continued his fight against slavery. Surely much to the consternation of his anti-slavery Unitarian family, James joined the First Georgia Cavalry of the Confederacy (where he served as a clerk) and also wrote patriotic music for the Confederacy including "Our battle Flag," "Strike for the South" and "We Conquer or Die." One can only imagine how the family back in Massachusetts (including his abolitionist principled Father John who, at the advanced age of 76, volunteered during the Civil War as a chaplain with the 22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry brigade) reacted to James' confederate loyalties. which flew directly in the face of all their abolitionist efforts! In any case, after the war, James moved his family to Valdosta, Georgia, and finally to Florida where he once again became a church organist and music teacher, this time at a Presbyterian Church. The musician died in 1893 in Winter Haven Florida, and was (as one final slap in the face to his Unitarian family) was buried in Savannah next to his brother-in-law Thomas, who had been killed (as a confederate soldier) in the first battle of Bull Run.

None of this complicated history, of course, means that we should not enjoy singing "Jingle Bells" at the top of our lungs with family and friends around a Christmas piano. Nor does it mean we cannot be proud of our Unitarian connection to this wonderful holiday song. But the complicated story of James Pierpont and his abolitionist Unitarian family reminds us of an even deeper truth about the Christmas season. That the true work of Christmas which Jesus of Nazareth taught during his lifetime remains unfulfilled. This Christmas season of 2013 may we all quietly re-dedicate our hands and our hearts to this unfinished dream.

### **The UUFK Lay Chaplaincy Program**

Submitted by Gerda Morrow who completed Basic Lay Chaplaincy Training in December, 2011, in Edmonton, AB; was installed as a lay chaplain for the UUFK by its Board in February, 2012; and was asked by the UUFK Lay Chaplaincy Committee at the November, 2013, meeting to write a letter to our Fellowship.

*‘Love and Compassion are necessities’* (from The Wisdom of the Dali Lama). Although the Dali Lama’s beliefs are worthy aspirations for all people, I believe Love and Compassion are fundamental objectives to embrace when acting in the capacity of lay chaplain. *‘Lay chaplains prepare for and officiate at rites of passage – weddings, funerals and memorial services, child dedications services – for the general public and, in congregations without ministers, for members of the congregation, following guidelines issued by the CUC and additional policies established by each congregation’s Board of Trustees’* (from the Lay Chaplaincy Program Manuel, revised 2010). The lay chaplaincy program is solely a Canadian institution. Our UUFK relies on the services of two lay chaplains. Ideally the lay chaplains do not begin and end their tenures at the same time. The position can be held for up to six years; every year, of those six years, the lay chaplain is re-instated by the church board. Lay chaplains do not represent the church during hospital visits nor do they counsel when interviewing people for any rite of passage service. Currently a lay chaplain charges \$250.00 for each service, of which 30% is given to the UUFK and \$10.00 is sent to the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). Foremost in the mind of each lay chaplain is the fact that the lay chaplain represents the UUFK in the community at large. *‘Love and Compassion are necessities.’*

You may be interested in the lay chaplain program so as to better recommend our services to the public or maybe this program calls to you to consider becoming a lay chaplain. If so, more information can be gleaned from the CUC website – <http://cuc.ca/lay-chaplaincy/> and <http://cuc.ca/lay-chaplaincy/lc-training/>, from our own website – <http://www.uukam.bc.ca/> selecting ‘Life Ceremonies’ and from the Chair of our UUFK Lay Chaplaincy Committee, currently Heather G. When I attended the Basic Lay Chaplaincy Training (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday), some people attended because they sought to serve as a lay chaplain; others attended because they were drawn to know more about lay chaplaincy in general.

Why did I choose to become a lay chaplain? One of our lay chaplains retired. I attended a single day of Lay Chaplaincy Introduction in March, 2011. Some of my considerations for later submitting my name to the lay chaplaincy committee were as follows. I have my own personal spiritual practices; I try to be mindful of other people’s spirituality. My own practices can ground me; being mindful of others can give comfort to them when a requested ritual is used or when expected word choices centering around a deity are used in the ceremony. I am a good listener, developing people’s trust. I ask questions, rather than assume, and take notes during an interview – no longer relying on memory. As a retired voice, speech and drama instructor, I can draw from a wealth of poetry and prose selections to personalize, illustrate and heighten the generic ceremony texts in the Participants’ Workbook given at the Basic Training.

Why might you choose to become a lay chaplain? Or what characteristics do you look for when seeking the services of a lay chaplain, either for yourself or for your family? Our past minister, Rev. Wendy McNiven, spoke of “*Courageous Love*” in her December homily. If you experience a ‘push-pull’ relationship when considering the lay chaplaincy, I believe that a person can source potentials not realized: “*Courageous Love*”. We are all unique treasure troves, bringing various hues of Beauty, Wisdom, Empathy and even Humour to the position. The UUFK retains two lay chaplains, not only to ensure there will always be lay chaplaincy services available when required but also ‘to get the right fit’ for the needs of the people seeking lay chaplaincy services. Many lay chaplains speak of a growth or deepening of their own spirituality when they prepare for and officiate at a wedding service or conduct a memorial service. The conclusion of each service is tangible but underlying the service and its preparation are subtexts and nuances that linger and enrich.

“... be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon ‘em.” (from Maria’s unkind letter to Malvolio; *Twelfth Night*; II.v) If you, as a member of the UUFK congregation, have reservations about recommending the services of our lay chaplains, please note that there is a screening process for the Malvolios of the world. First the UUFK Lay Chaplaincy Committee and our UUFK Board receive the candidate’s submitted letter of request. Both bodies review the letter, then send the letter to the lay chaplaincy arm of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). The CUC has the final word in accepting the candidate. These safe guards protect the lay chaplaincy program and the integrity of the UUFK. This Canadian designed program has provided and continues to provide trained and recognized lay chaplains to prepare for and offer rites of passages as requested.

### Christmas Banner



### Solstice Service Picture

Lots of good comments about our first Solstice Service.



# New Members



On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, KUFF had the honour of welcoming Madisun B. and Colene P. as new members. President, Dennis, and Membership Chair, Joan, led the ceremony as they and the congregation welcomed our newest members to the congregation.

## CONTACT US .....

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kamloops meets on Sundays at the Valleyview Community Hall (2288 Park St.) in Kamloops, B.C. during the months of September through June. (Services start on the Sunday after the Labour Day weekend.) Services are usually at 10:00 am @ Valleyview Hall. For details on individual Sunday schedules, please see the details on the newsletter Upcoming Services page, the monthly calendar, or go to **our website:** [www.uukam.bc.ca](http://www.uukam.bc.ca)

**We are a welcoming community, believing in the dignity of every individual and in freedom of religious thought.**

Contact us by phone: **250 – 374 – 5594**